

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10 and 11 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1-4 being independent.

Independent Claims 1-4 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 9, lines 7-15, of the specification.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, the claim language identified in the Office Action has been deleted, and these claims now recite that a corner contacts with the sliding surface of the sliding member. As will be appreciated, the sliding member is "slidably guided" by the adjacent

member, with the corner of the adjacent member contacting the sliding member (see column 8, line 17 through column 9, line 15). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baumgartner '980. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to an injection mold comprising a sliding member having a partial cavity surface which forms part of a cavity surface, and an adjacent member having a partial cavity surface which forms part of the cavity surface. A sliding surface of the sliding member is slidably guided by a sliding surface of the adjacent member and is linearly movable by a relative sliding distance. As amended, Claim 1 recites that a corner between the partial cavity surface and the sliding surface of the adjacent member contacts with the sliding surface of the sliding member. In addition, a portion from the partial cavity surface to the sliding surface of at least one of the sliding member and the adjacent member is continuously coated with a heat insulating coat, and a range over which the sliding surface is coated with the heat insulating coat is so set as to exceed an end of the relative sliding distance.

Claim 2 relates to an injection mold that includes the features of Claim 1, and further sets forth that an entire region from the heat insulating coat to the sliding surface is continuously coated with a protective coat.

Claims 3 and 4 relate to an injection mold including a sliding member and an adjacent member as set forth in Claim 1, and have likewise been amended to recite that a corner between the partial cavity surface and a sliding surface of the adjacent member contacts with the sliding surface of the sliding member. Claim 3 further features a portion from the partial cavity surface to the sliding surface of at least one of the sliding member and the adjacent member being continuously coated with a heat insulating coat, and an entire region from the heat insulating coat to the sliding surface being continuously coated with a protective coat. In Claim 4, at least a portion of the partial cavity surface of at least one of the sliding member and the adjacent member is continuously coated with a heat insulating coat, and an entire region from the heat insulating coat to the sliding surface is continuously coated with a high protective coat.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a high performance and long lasting injection mold can be provided.

As discussed in the Amendment of October 7, 2005, Baumgartner relates to a multilayered injection mold 10 comprised of two core halves 12 forming a mold cavity 14 therebetween and being relatively movable with respect to each other. With reference to Figure 1A, each core half includes a thermal insulating layer 22 and a hard skin layer 24.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Baumgartner does not teach or suggest, among other features, a sliding surface of a sliding member slidably guided by a sliding surface of an adjacent member and linearly movable by a relative sliding distance, with a corner

between a partial cavity surface and the sliding surface of the adjacent member contacting with the sliding surface of the sliding member. In this regard, the Office Action asserts that the sliding members (core halves) 12 have partial cavity surfaces movable relative to an adjacent member (protective coat) 24 having an end gate 18a. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the sliding members 12 can move relative to each other (see column 4, lines 56-59), but the sliding members 12 do not move relative to the protective coat 24 and thus cannot be said to contact the protective coat in the manner recited in Applicants' claimed invention. Baumgartner also fails to provide a corner of one sliding member that contacts the other sliding member. In fact, the sliding members 12 do not slidably guide one another, but merely move towards and away from each other to change the size of the cavity. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1-4 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 10 and 11 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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